



Cults Primary School Homework Policy

'A better way to describe homework might be 'learning out of school'. Children learn a great deal at school, you can add to that learning by supporting them at with reading together, writing and counting.'

Education Scotland – Supporting Children at Home

This policy was developed in response to a full consultation with staff, parents and pupils and will be subject to regular review to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our school.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Share learning with parents/carers and provide opportunities for them to be involved in their children's learning
- Consolidate and develop core skills in literacy and numeracy
- Ensure consistency
- Provide clarity about what children are expected to do
- Encourage in every child the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently
- Encourage children to develop a positive attitude towards their own learning

Types of Homework

At all stages a variety of activities will be given to reinforce learning in literacy, numeracy and topic work. Tasks given will have a clear purpose and match the ability of the child. Children are expected to try their best. The nature and complexity of homework tasks will vary according to the age and stage of the child, but should actively engage children in their learning whenever possible. Class teachers will set reading homework for groups and individuals of a level, nature and frequency appropriate to the age and ability of the child.

P1

Children in P1 will be given mainly reading and phonics homework along with numeracy tasks, focussed mainly on the development of number bonds. At this stage pupils will benefit most from a "little and often" approach to homework and tasks will not generally be set on a weekly basis.

Homework in P1 should not take more than 10 minutes per week night.

P2-7

Homework, other than reading, should be set on a weekly basis and span a weekend wherever possible. (e.g. set on Wednesday, handed in on Monday)

Weekly homework activities will take the form of:

A Spelling/Language task

A Reading task

A Maths task

A task related to the class topic or other relevant ongoing work

Homework in P2-4 should take no longer than 1 hour 15 minutes per week, including reading tasks.

Homework in P5-7 should take no longer than 2 hours per week, including reading tasks.

Activities may include:

Reading preparation/consolidation and related tasks

Spelling activities

Learning number bonds and tables

Maths or Language consolidation

Educational websites

Learning poems, songs, parts in plays

Writing in various forms

The preparation of a talk to give to the class

Practical activities

Research of various kinds:

- from the media e.g. TV, radio, newspapers, internet.
- from books available at home, school, the library.
- in the home e.g. drawing a plan of a room
- collecting labels etc. conducting a food survey
- into the past e.g. by talking to an elderly relative/neighbour, compiling a family tree, finding photos

Parent/Carer Role

Parents/Carers have an invaluable contribution to make by showing interest, giving support and ensuring that tasks set are completed to the best of their child's ability with regard to both content and presentation.

The role of parents/carers:

- to support their child's learning by ensuring that they engage in homework tasks
- to provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework
- to support their child by speaking about the homework task, but not directly completing the task for their child
- to sign the homework book when tasks are completed

If any problems arise concerning homework, parents should not hesitate to contact the relevant staff.

School Role

- to provide clear learning intentions and success criteria and any guidance required to ensure successful completion of tasks.
- to issue parents with clear guidance on when homework is to be handed in
- to ensure that homework is set consistently
- to ensure that homework is purposeful and will support the child's learning
- to provide feedback to pupils on how effectively they met the success criteria

Pupil Role

- to ensure homework tasks are taken home, completed and returned to school within the given timescale
- to complete tasks to the best of their ability
- to alert teachers and/or parents to any difficulties they are experiencing

It is not school policy to provide homework for children taking holidays during term time, however, parents/carers may wish to encourage children to read for pleasure and keep a diary or other record of their holiday.

Only in exceptional circumstances should unfinished class work be sent home for completion as homework. Parents/carers will be contacted should a child regularly not complete class work in the allocated time.